Action to prevent cruelty to Animals

†3765. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Prayogshlaon mein bejuban janwaron par Krurta kee seema nahin", which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara dated 20th March, 2001; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to prevent the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government has constituted a Commitee under sections 14 to 20 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 with the purpose of controlling and supervising experiments performed on animals. The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals has formulated rules governing the procedures for experimentation, which have been notified through the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998 and experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) (Amendment) Rules, 2001. As per rule all the scientific institutes/establishments performing experiments/breeding have to register themselves with the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals. The Committee lays down the guidelines to be followed by all establishments for the maintenance of animals and animal houses. On application by the institutions and on being satisfied about the standards of ethical use of animals, this Committee gives suggestion to the institutions. The Committee has also been keeping close watch on the condition of the animal houses and the process of experimentation and has taken necessary action against several institutions, where violations have been reported.

Ban on use of wild animals in circus

†3766. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to ban the use of wild animals in circus;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government have banned the exhibition and training of Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers and Lions *vide* Government of India's notification G.S.R. 619(E) dated 14th October, 1998.

(c) The Government have banned only those animals which are endangered species, suffer extreme cruelty during training. These animals are regarded as untamable and poaching and illegal trading is suspected of such animals.

Removal of encroachments from Wakf properties

3767. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether sections 54 and 55 of the Wakf Act, 1995 bestow special powers on Chief Executive Officer of a Wakf Board for removal of encroachments on Wakf properties;

(b) if so, whether these powers are being exercised by Chief Executive Officers;

(c) the number of encroachments removed during last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the action taken by her Ministry for compliance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) As per provision under section 54 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Chief Executive Officer has powers to issue notice to the encroacher and order, after conducting an equiry requiring the encroacher to remove such encroachment. In the event of the encroacher failing to remove the encroachment, the Chief Executive Officer is to take action for evicting the encroacher as per provision under section 55 of the Wakf Act. Details on removal of encroachment from Wakf properties are maintained by the State Governments. The Central Government has been pursuing the removal of encroachments from Wakf properties with the States/ Union Territories.